The South 40

Expect a frost in eight weeks

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

In eight weeks we can expect the first frost of the season. If there is enough moisture to plant a fall garden, consider the need for short season crops.

* * *

Did a little checking on the percent of normal rainfall for this growing season - April 125%, May 105%, June 130%, July 44% and for the first two weeks of August 61%. There have been 33 days of 90 degree plus temperatures.

The current state climatologist's report predicts below-normal precipitation for the months of July through September and below-normal temperatures for the same period.

The forecast for October through December is for above normal precipitation. The odds favor an early frost and temperatures are forecast as normal.

Over the central part of the state, April was the rainiest since 1937 and second rainiest of the century. Appomattox recorded 4.15 in April, with the normal being 3.32.

* * *

There are some new approaches being taken to internal parasite control in grazing animals that I want to address.

Internal parasites damages occurs as nutritional loss, blood loss and respiratory disturbance. The most common affect is in the last stomach and intestines. Haemonchus, blood sucking worms, can drain a cow of more than one quart of blood a week.

It is now generally accepted that the number of eggs per gram of feces is not an accurate indicator of the number of stomach worms that are present.

The worms are the most common parasite causing production losses.

These worms lay eggs that are passed through the feces. If conditions are right, the eggs hatch and the larvae develop, finally climbing on a leaf of grass which is eaten by the animal and further development occurs in abomasum of the cow and the life cycle starts over.

When pastures are grazed by parasitized cattle for several years, a predictable pattern develops. Young cattle become infected early in the grazing season. By mid-summer or early fall, the pasture contamination is at a peak and the grazing animal is being exposed to high levels of infective larvae. It's at this time that infection rates in young animals are high and losses may be dramatic.

In the fall, larvae entering the animal may undergo an inhibition to their development and become very resistant to parasite treatment. In the spring, these inhibited larvae are stimulated by the lush pasture to develop and lay eggs. Under our climatic conditions, the larvae over-winter and pasture contamination continues from one year to the next.

Conventional treatment calls for getting the cattle up and treating after there has been considerable exposure to infective larve and cattle are likely showing signs of infection.

The short-comings of this practice is that:

1. For an animal to show signs of parasitism, it must experience a period when the signs of parasitism are not obvious, but production losses are occurring.

2. The pasture these cattle are grazing is contaminated with overwhelming levels of infective larvae and treatment of the animal will have little effect on the pasture parasite population.

3. Conventional worming treatments, administered during the grazing season, provides only temporary relief.

A recommendation to overcome some of these shortcomings suggests treating cattle as they are put on spring pasture in order to kill the developing larvae, as well as any parasites that may already be in the digestive tract. A second treatment is given three weeks later. The second treatment is critical. If you are serious about controlling worms, don't overlook the second treatment. This is the period when the inhibited larvae will have developed and larvae which have over-wintered will have been eaten in the forage. This treatment will kill these parasites. This program provides for a low parasite exposure during the remainder of the grazing season.

Next week I'll describe some of the new worming materials that are on the horizon.

Benefit planned

The Flag and Rifle Corps of the A.C.H.S. Raider Band will be washing cars and selling baked goods in order to raise money for uniform accessories.

Their bake sale/car wash is Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Farmers National Bank in the shopping center.

Raider Band caps will also be on sale at the bake sale/car wash and at the Village Market in Vera. Come and support your band.

EMERY MULLINS OF THE CHAP COMMUNITY NEAR CENTRAL CHURCH just couldn't stand the idea of retirement. A successful farmer, raising bright tobacco all of his life, he retired in 1975 at age 62. He decided he had grown enough of the stuff and sold all of his equipment, the planters, the stringers, carts and everything. But, he got bored and just had to have something to do. So, he borrowed a half acre of dark tobacco allotment from Robert McClenny and this year he's back in business. He's shown in his field of tobacco planted on former pastureland. Mullins, who will be 71 in Oct. was scheduled to cut the tobacco early this week. (Photo by Frances Abbitt)

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

New Counties Named For Livestock Aid - Eighteen more Virginia counties have been approved to allow producers to graze their own conservation use acreage (CUA) due to dry weather conditions according to J. Richard Andrews, Chairman of the Virginia ASCS Committee. The total number of counties approved to date is 32.

Conservation use acreage is cropland that has been removed from production and devoted to approved cover as a requirement for the acreage reduction program, paid diversion, and the payment-in-kind.

Andrews named the following counties that have been approved for conservation use acreage grazing: Appomattox, Augusta, Fauquier, Goochland, Halifax, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren and Westmoreland. These counties approved earlier were: Amelia, Bedford, Campbell, Clarke, Culpeper, Cumberland, Franklin, Frederick, Greene, Henry, Madison, Orange, Prince Edward, and Richard. All ASCS offices in these counties are now accepting applications from farmers interested in the grazing program.

As dry weather conditions persist, other counties will be approved as requests are submitted, stated Andrews. After the county files the request with the Richmond Office, the Department is aiming at a "24-hour turnaround" in getting approval back to the counties affected, he advised.

These special provisions are for conservation use acreage only, and do not apply to wildlife acreage. Grazing will be restricted to livestock owned by the producer as of August 1.

USDA Announces 1984 Wheat Program - Provisions of the 1984 wheat program have been announced and the signup period will start on January 16 and continue through February 24.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is required by law to announce the wheat program for the following year no later than Aug. 15.

The 1984 wheat program includes:

-- A $4.45 per bushel target price.
--A $3.30 per bushel national average loan rate.
-- An acreage reduction requirement of 30 percent.
-- No advance deficiency payments.

-- To be eligible for program benefits, producers must limit 1984 wheat planted acreage to no more than 70 percent of the farm's wheat base and devote to conservation use an acreage of eligible cropland equal to 42.86 percent of the 1984 planted and payment-in-kind (PIK) acreage.

-- The 1984 acreage base will be the average of the acreage planted and considered planted to wheat in 1982 and 1983.

-- Farmers participating in the acreage reduction program may divert an additional 10 to 20 percent of their wheat base and receive payment-in-kind equal to 75 percent of the established yield times the acres diverted.

-- PIK program participants will not receive wheat from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks. Producers signing up in the PIK program will agree first to use their outstanding reserve or regular CCC price support loans. Producers with no outstanding loan agree to harvest for PIK. Those producers with no outstanding loan and who are unable to harvest for PIK will not receive a PIK payment.

-- Land designated for conservation use must have been devoted to row crops or small grains in two of the last three years except for a summer fallow farm. Under summer fallow rules the land must be acreage that would have been planted to small grains or row crops in 1984 in the absence of the 1984 wheat program.

-- Haying will not be permitted on the conservation use acreage. However, the acreage may be grazed except during the six principal growing months.

-- Offsetting and cross compliance will not apply to the 1984 program.

-- There will be no immediate entry into the farmer owned reserve for the 1984 crop of wheat. Further, USDA intends to review the size of the reserve before regular price support loans for the 1984 crop reach maturity. A ceiling may be placed on the size of the wheat reserve at that time which will effectively preclude entry of the 1984 crop into the reserve.

-- Contracts signed by program participants for either the acreage reduction or PIK program will be considered as binding and will provide for liquidated damages for failure to comply with program requirements.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET

State 4-H Electric Congress was held in Richmond this week. Darrell Conner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Conner, and Curtis Moore, son of Eva Moore, participated in the special event from Appomattox. Darrell and Curtis have been involved with 4-H Electric projects for several years.

Electric Congress is sponsored by the various electric power supplies of Virginia. During the three day event, 4-H'ers had the opportunity to learn about electrical energy, tour the State Capitol, visit the North Anna Generating Plant and visit Kings Dominion.

* * *

Five County Fair catalogs will be mailed to each 4-H family this month from the Fair Office in Farmville. This year's fair will begin on Monday, September 12, and run through Saturday, September 17. 4-H'ers are encouraged to enter at least one exhibit. Many young people enter several items each year.

* * *

Senior 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to attend a 4-H Business Management Workshop on December 9-10 at the Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. The workshop is designed to help older 4-H members understand the Business world, including the area of planning, organizing, budgeting, production, merchandizing, scheduling and record keeping. Teen 4-H'ers will receive details about this event during their fall meetings.

* * *

The Holiday Lake 4-H Center Board of Directors have elected to give away a 1984 Chevrolet Chevette during a drawing to be held on December 21, 1983. Additional prizes will be a microwave oven and a ten-speed bike. Tickets will be available by early September.

* * *

"Working with Older Friends" is the title of a new series of 4-H projects that have just been printed. The projects require young people to develop close friendships with older adults. Many 4-H'ers may find these projects to be most helpful. We'll have a supply of the new projects by late September.

Historical Society meets

The Appomattox County Historical Society board of directors met Wednesday to finalize plans for the September meeting.

The September meeting will be held at "Eldon," home of Virginia and Francis Tyler, on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. This is a change of date.

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